

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated May 5, 2005 (the Final Action) and the Advisory Action mailed August 18, 2005 (the Advisory Action). A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith. Entry of the above amendments (which assumes that the amendments filed August 5, 2005 were not entered) is requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claim 5 is allowed.

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,161,648 to Widman ("Widman"). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,185,161 to Tinnerman ("Tinnerman"). Claim 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Widman in view of Tinnerman.

In light of the above amendments and the remarks below, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 4-11 and 13 are in condition for allowance.

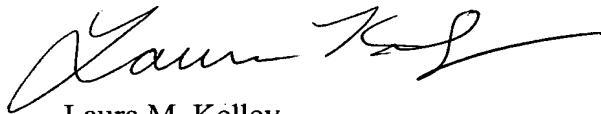
With respect to independent Claim 1, the Advisory Action takes the position that the weatherstripping 30 and loops 34 of Widman are formed as a unitary member even though the Advisory Action concedes that the weatherstripping 30 and loops 34 "are separate members." Applicants disagree with the Advisory Action's interpretation of the term "unitary;" however, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the device "is entirely formed of a polymeric material." Claim 3 has been canceled. Widman discusses that the weatherstripping 30 is formed of plastic (col. 2, lines 28-29) and that the loops 34 are wire loops (col. 2, lines 44-45). Therefore, this recitation is clearly not anticipated or suggested by Widman. For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is patentable over Widman. Claims 4-11 depend from Claim 1 and are likewise in condition for allowance.

The Advisory Action also maintains the rejection of Claim 13 as being unpatentable over Tinnerman. To expedite prosecution, Claim 13 has been amended to further recite "a clip connected to the base member and configured to attach the device to one of the first or second furniture components, wherein the device is entirely formed of a single material." Applicants submit that at least this recitation is not taught or suggested by the cited art. Therefore, Claim 13 is also in condition for allowance.

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In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application and passing the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

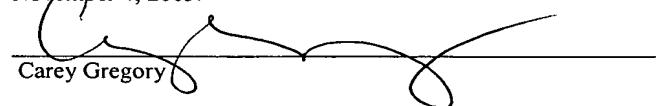


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 4, 2005.



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